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LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that over the last few days, Israeli towns and villages have once again been subjected to indiscriminate rocket bombardments originating from Lebanese territory.

In several letters to the Secretary-General, the Government of Lebanon accused Israel, inter alia, of acts of aggression and attempts to destabilize Lebanon and undermine its national unity and territorial integrity. From the aforementioned Lebanese communications, one could be led to believe that Israel arbitrarily attacks civilian and military targets in Lebanon at whim, in order to destabilize and undermine Lebanon.

In repeating such misleading accusations, the Government of Lebanon could hardly believe that the international community is blind to the real reasons for the instability in the area of the Israel-Lebanon border. The international community is fully aware of the fact that the Hezbollah terrorist organization, the source of whose instructions is widely known, functions both within and from Lebanese territory and commits acts of terror and violence which are aimed at adversely influencing and frustrating the peace process.

Despite Lebanon's declared commitment, pursuant to the 1989 Taif accord, to disarm all the militias functioning on its territory, no attempt has been made so far by the Lebanese Government to disarm the Hezbollah terrorist organization. On the contrary, the organization is encouraged by Lebanon's leaders; it is granted freedom of movement by the Lebanese Army to carry out acts of terrorism and it is granted shelter after completing such acts.

The Hezbollah terrorist organization functions with impunity within Lebanon, openly intent upon undermining the peace process, regardless of the better interests of Lebanon itself and in open abuse of Lebanon's national unity and integrity. Its activities are initiated, planned and supported by Iran, and carried out with the sanction and cooperation of the Government of

Lebanon. Some of Hezbollah's recent activities have been orchestrated to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of the organization's previous leader, Abbas Mussawi, and to serve as a demonstration of "welcome" to the area for the visit of the Secretary of State of the United States of America. These activities have involved all-out, pre-planned and coordinated infantry attacks on targets in southern Lebanon and rocket attacks on Israeli towns and villages. In clear abuse of accepted humanitarian norms, the bases and emplacements of the Hezbollah terrorist organization are located within, or in close proximity to, civilian population centres and infrastructures, thereby cynically utilizing innocent civilians as human shields for their terrorist activities.

The sanction given by the Government of Lebanon to acts of terror both on and from Lebanese territory constitutes a stark violation by Lebanon of its international responsibilities and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and relevant norms of international law.

Israel has expended every effort to respond to the Hezbollah attacks with moderation and restraint, and is obliged to undertake whatever measures necessary to protect itself from such terrorism and to detect and prevent activities and infiltrations by Hezbollah terrorists across the Israeli-Lebanese border.

When addressing the international community, Lebanon must not misrepresent the facts. It cannot call upon the Security Council to act against another Member State when Lebanon itself is sanctioning terrorism. The recent attempts by Lebanon to internationalize the mutual Israeli-Lebanese problems by repeatedly urging Security Council action against Israel, serve to undermine the bilateral peace negotiating process, which is the only feasible means of solving disputes between the two countries. Israel continues to hope that Lebanon will make a courageous choice and live up to its commitment by disarming Hezbollah as well as the other terrorist organizations functioning within and from its territory. We also hope that Lebanon will negotiate and sign a treaty of peace with Israel, with a view to achieving peace and security in the area.

I should be grateful, Your Excellency, if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gad YAACOBI
Ambassador